GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3311
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2004
HARASSMENT OF TRIBALS
Nayak Shri Ananta

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing incidents of harassment of tribals by the Excise Department in some States;

(b) if so, the number of cases of harassment by the Excise Department Officials in Orissa, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh have come to the notice of the Government during this year;

(c) whether the Central directives have been sent to the department concerned of the State Government`s in these States to protect the interest of tribals; and

(d) if so, the response of each of the above State Governments thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

(a) &(b) No such instance has come to the notice of the Ministry.

(c)&(d) This Ministry has issued guidelines from time to time to all the States on the excise policy that may be followed in tribal areas. The basic points which are to be adopted by the States are:-

(i) Commercial vending of alcoholic beverage should be discontinued in tribal areas.

(ii) Scheduled Tribes may be permitted to brew their traditional beverages for consumption at home and on religions and social occasions.

(iii) Attempts may be made to wean the Scheduled Tribes away from the habit of drinking alcoholic beverages and for this purpose, official and non-official voluntary organizations may be encouraged to take up work in the tribal areas.

The guidelines have been circulated to the States from time to time and they have been requested to follow the guidelines in letter and spirit in order to protect the interest of the tribals.